

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UTAH ART INSTITUTE

To His Excellency, Governor Wells:

SIR:--As required by law (Chapter 29, Sec. 14, Statutes of 1899), I submit herewith the first annual report of the Utah Art Institute.

The Governing Board was appointed early in the summer of the present year, and organized on July 25th last with the following officers: President, Mr. H. L. A. Culmer; Vice-President, Mr. J. B. Fairbanks; Secretary, Mr. J. H. Paul; Treasurer, Mrs. Elizabeth McCune. The other members of the Governing Board were Mr. W. E. Ware, and Miss Louise Richards. The last named member, Miss Richards, recently resigned on account of absence from the State, and Mr. John Hafen was appointed to fill the vacancy.

A number of meetings of the Governing Board have been held since the organization, and the work of carrying out the provisions of the law creating the Institute is well under way.

An address to artists and to the patrons and lovers of art throughout the State was first prepared for general circulation. The address is sent herewith. (Exhibit A.)

The law creating the Institute and the by-laws adopted by the Governing Board, together with information concerning the first annual art exhibition, were printed in pamphlet form, for free distribution. (Exhibit B.)

The documents named above have been circulated throughout the State, a copy having been sent to every person known to be interested in art, to every State official, and to every teacher in the public schools of the State. The president has, in addition, sent personal letters of invitation to participate in the work of the Institute to about 300 persons whom he thought likely to be interested.

Arrangements have been made for holding the first annual exhibit in this city from December 5th to 25th of the present year. A choice collection of paintings by eminent American artists has been procured in Chicago and New York for exhibition by the Institute this year. (Exhibit C.)

Prizes, aggregating the sum of \$498.00, have been offered for the best original paintings, and for studies in clay, designs in wood, pottery, tiling, cabinet work, metal work, architecture, and photography. Of these, the most important is the offer of the annual prize of \$300.00 for the best original painting by a Utah resident artist, as required by section 17 of the law creating the Institute. The sum of \$455.00 has been expended in carrying out the work above indicated. (Exhibit D.) The remaining expenses of the annual exhibition and of the course of public lectures on art throughout the State will consume the remainder of the annual appropriation of \$1,000.00. The latter work will be undertaken after the close of the exhibition.

Respectfully submitted,
J. H. Paul, Secretary

EXHIBIT A.

AN ADDRESS

In behalf of the interests of art in Utah, to the artists, the students, the patrons, and the lovers of art throughout the State. From the Utah Art Institute, organized in compliance with legislative enactment: and comprising by law

1—An Annual Art Exhibit. The first will be held in Salt Lake City in December, 1899.

2—A State Art Collection of painting, sculpture, fabrics, and fine wares, acquired by donation or by purchase.

3—A Course of Public Lectures on Art, to be delivered before the State institutions of learning during the year.

This State institution for the encouragement of fine arts is now organized with headquarters in Salt Lake City. The Governor's appointees comprise, as by law provided, four artists, one person prominently identified with State education, one architect, and one person directly interested in the manufacture of silk or other art fabrics. Following is the membership of

THE GOVERNING BOARD.

H. L. A. Culmer, President, No. 4 Culmer Block.
John B. Fairbanks, Vice-President, No. 613 Templeton.
J. H. Paul, Secretary, No. 510 Templeton.
Mrs. E. McCune, Treasurer, No. 70 E. South Temple.
Mr. J. T. Harwood, High School Building.
Miss Louise Richards, 973 E. South Temple.
Mr. W. E. Ware, 62 Hooper Building.

In accordance with the provisions of the State law organizing the Utah Art Institute, the Governing Board thereof sends to all who are interested in art in our midst this greeting:

The art development in Utah is already, for a young community, exceptional; and public interest in art, as evinced by the passage of the law creating the Art Institute, is continually extending. The outcome of these movements must be an understanding among the people of what is good in art and a truer conception and appreciation of its higher forms.

The refining educational influence upon the household of having in the homes pictures or other products of devoted, artistic labor, is so well known as to require no comment. The worth of products which are really works of art, cannot be estimated in mere sums of money.

The peculiar influences under which this State has been peopled, which have brought to it families of all nationalities, and of the most varied methods of thought and previous experience, together with the fact that most of those who come to Utah do so in order to make it their permanent abode, combine to make the supposition not improbable, that talent for art will be developed in various places and under circumstances where it might be least expected. With us, each community is attached to the soil as a permanent abiding place, so

that whatever growth is experienced in the lines of art education is likely to be permanent. Our environment is calculated to produce noble and beautiful types of art work.

Ours is not an indolent atmosphere. We have the desire to perform, the impulse to act, the inclination to work, in as high a degree as have any people in the world. Our development in music is already so marked as to command the admiration of masters in that line. The record which our students make in institutions of higher learning in other states and countries, has also become an acknowledged fact. Art education in the public schools and in the homes of Utah, may therefore, and with good reason, be expected to make such advancement that no one can safely say that the outcome of that development may be, when it has once been thoroughly undertaken and set afoot. The rugged grandeur of our mountain scenery, the clear atmosphere and the intense sunlight of this country, inevitably develop the artistic impulses, while the energy of the people adds to their interest and enthusiasm in whatever they esteem of true worth. The character of the people of this State, as well as their environments, may be expected to produce a school of artists not excelled by any other community of like size under like conditions.

The economic aspects of art deserve some mention. That the pursuit of art and its encouragement among the people generally will repay its cost, is undoubted. The coffers of many Italian and French communities are filled by the prices paid by foreigners for paintings and statuary. The pursuit of art must always be for its own sake, yet it finally pays, when the public interest in art products becomes sufficiently developed.

Art education in the United States has been recognized as a necessity, because of the manifold applications of art to manufactured products. The work of the mechanic, the manufacturer, and the artisan of all kinds, is made more acceptable when the product is artistic as well as useful.

What has already been accomplished by students of art from Utah who have gained distinction abroad, as well as what others have accomplished at home, is a hint of what may be done as soon as public attention and a community of interest are centered upon education in art. The influence of art upon the moral habits of a community is not to be overlooked. There cannot be any doubt that refinement of thought will go hand in hand with steadiness of moral purpose in the study of what is good, true, and beautiful in the fine arts.

The Utah Art Institute has been created by law to foster the influences that tend to the development of artistic creations in our midst. Its members desire the co-operation, primarily, of all the artists in the State, and secondarily of all others, whoever and wherever they may be, that are interested in the development of this phase of life in our midst. To this end the active participation of the classes named is cordially solicited.

An art exhibition, to be given in Salt Lake City during December next, will be the first public step on the part of the board towards carrying out the provisions of the law.

Artists, students of art, manufacturers, and artisans, who may have products which they desire to submit in competition, or for exhibition only, are invited to communicate with the Institute.

Respectfully,
H. L. A. Culmer,
President.

J. H. Paul,
Secretary.